



Pennsylvania
U.S. Senator Bob Casey



The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act: Help for Families in Troubling Times

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, passed with the support of Senator Bob Casey, Jr. and signed into law by President Obama, delivers fast relief for Pennsylvania families. Pennsylvania workers and families are under strain. As of January, there are 450,000 unemployed Pennsylvanians –155,000 more than in 2008 – raising unemployment to 7%, the highest level in more than 15 years. Pennsylvania's working families are also facing rising health care costs, declining home values, and difficulty meeting college expenses for their children. Here is how the American Recovery and Investment Act will benefit you:

Tax Cuts for 95% of America's Working Families

- A typical family will receive **\$65** more in paychecks each month, starting in April.
- **4.9 million Pennsylvania workers** and their families will get up to **\$400** for individuals and **\$800** for married couples with the new Making Work Pay Tax Credit.
- Social Security beneficiaries, SSI recipients and disabled veterans will receive payments of **\$250**, mostly by May of this year.
- **One million Pennsylvanians** will be protected from the Alternative Minimum Tax.

Help for Workers Who've Lost Their Jobs

- Unemployment benefits will be **extended for 33 weeks**, giving jobless workers more time to find employment in this tough economy.
- **65% of the cost** of premiums for COBRA health insurance will be covered for up to 9 months for laid off workers wanting to continue purchasing health insurance through their former employer.

Support for Students Struggling to Afford College

- **138,000 Pennsylvania families** can offset college tuition costs with the **\$2,500** American Opportunity Tax Credit.
- **244,000 Pennsylvania students** will see a **\$500** increase in the maximum Pell Grant to cover college tuition payments.

Tax Credit for Families Buying Their First Home

- Many Pennsylvanians looking to buy their first home in 2009 can receive a **tax credit** of up to **\$8,000**; the credit is available for homebuyers with incomes are up to **\$75,000** for individuals and **\$150,000** for married couples.

For further details on the American Recovery and Investment Act, please [click here](#).